

GREEN JACKETS FAIL TO GUARD JAMES

Wycombe Wanderers 5; 1st Green Jackets 1

THE optimism currently infecting the Wycombe camp was in no way impaired by the Wanderers' display in their friendly match with the enthusiastic and competent team of the county regiment, the 1st Green Jackets.

Exchanges in the September sun were more amiable than urgent in this stop-gap fixture while most other Isthmian League clubs were preoccupied with the F.A. Cup, but, with some sparkling football at times from the home forwards and an exhilarating interval display by the Green Jackets' regimental band and drill squad, spectators were certainly never bored.

Although they rarely found the need to engage top gear, the Wanderers produced enough to bring their marksmanship total to 15 in three games within eight days—and five goals a match should be enough to quell the most carping critics.

Still steadily improving, Peter James collected three more in convincing style and the Wanderers' new atomic missile, wee Georgie Blair, making his first appearance before the home crowd, very soon established himself in the affections of the fans by a volatile performance at inside-right.

He and Len Worley—about whom much of the Wycombe attacking pattern revolves—should show us some fireworks this season.

Against a coolly competent home defence, and with Dave Thomas and burly Charles Gale dominating the midfield, Green-Jackets' forwards had much less of the ball than the breezy home forwards but although they were trailing by three goals at half-time and five down in little more than an hour, the visitors never relaxed their spirited opposition and their belated goal won the warm plaudits of the crowd.

VIGILANT 'KEEPER

Wycombe might well have doubled their tally had they followed up their chances with more venom and had not Rifleman Parsons been so vigilant in the Green Jackets' goal.

The leisurely Holmes collected a centre from busy Mick Rockell to put the Wanderers ahead 16 minutes after the start, and eight

minutes later quick-off-the-mark Blair provided the pass by which James scored a second. And before half-time James galloped away on his own to smack in a third, off an upright.

Holmes had a rest after the interval to give Ivor Ashby a run at inside-left and another neat goal from Blair was soon

followed by a fifth from Peter James, a few seconds after he had been injured in a goalmouth clash in attempting to head a left wing cross.

Some smart saves by Parsons thwarted Wycombe's non-stop assault before the tough Green Jackets, hitting back with renewed vigour in the last ten minutes, gave the score a slightly more respectable look with a last-minute goal from centre-forward Noel.

Wycombe Wanderers — Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Blair, James, Holmes, Rockell.

Green Jackets — Parsons; Crossingham, Hammond; Mutimer, North, Puddfoot; Cherry, Brock, Noel, Taylor, Gillham.